

Inez L. Roberts
543 North Hough Street - Unit 203
Barrington, IL 60060

January 10, 2008

TO: Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Filing
Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

**ADVERSE Impact of the Canadian National Railroad Purchase
of the EJ&E on the Creekside Pointe Condominium Community
and the Village of Barrington, Illinois**

I understand that the Canadian National Railroad (CN) is seeking approval from the United States Surface Transportation Board (STB) to purchase the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E), which has a line that cuts through the heart of Barrington and is adjacent to the Creekside Pointe Condominium Community where I reside, along with thirty-five other families. If CN is granted approval, CN will dramatically increase the freight train traffic on this line. Following are a few of the major reasons why **CN's acquisition should be denied**:

- Currently, the number of freight trains that pass through does not pose a problem. However, if CN is successful in their bid to buy the EJ&E line, the number of freight trains will increase from four to twenty or more each day, resulting in an average of one every hour! This would not only wreak havoc on the quality of life for the residents who live along the line, but for the entire Village of Barrington.
- The EJ&E line cuts Barrington in half, with the downtown business district and the elementary and middle schools on one side and the high school and Good Shepherd Hospital on the other side. Access to the business district, schools, and medical facilities would be seriously impaired.
- Emergency vehicles (Police, Fire and ambulances) delayed at a railroad crossing while a freight train passes through could result in life threatening situations.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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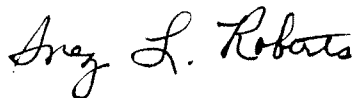
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• School buses cross the EJ&E line approximately 400 times every school day. Buses encountering crossing delays would increase the student's commute time and could cause late arrivals. For those children who walk or ride their bikes to school (which they are encouraged to do for exercise, fuel conservation and environmental reasons), frequently blocked railroad crossings present serious safety concerns.

- If it is too difficult to get into the downtown Barrington business district because of frequently blocked railway crossings due to increased freight train traffic, shoppers and diners will avoid Barrington and take their business elsewhere, leaving the business district economically devastated.
- Noise pollution from the increased number of freight trains passing by our residences and through the Village will be louder and more frequent. This will adversely impact the quality of life for residents and cause both residential and commercial property values to drop.

I am a senior citizen living on a fixed income. I cannot afford to sell my property at a loss and move to avoid this disaster if the sale is approved. I understand that some communities will benefit from CN's acquisition of the EJ&E line. It is my prayer that a compromise can be reached to the benefit of the entire area. I am counting on the STB to do what is right for the citizens.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aracely L. Roberts".

A very concerned resident